in favour of the carrying out of research in asylums which had not, in this paper, been brought forward and subjected to careful consideration. In any circumstances the contribution must be of value to the Association now that the speciality was about to embark on research. It was easy to talk of a thing in a general way, but it was not so easy to ensure it. It was to be hoped that those who would pay for the cost of research would be impressed by what Dr. Orr had said; he had made out a most excellent case for it.

Dr. HUBERT J. NORMAN said he knew but little about research, but he desired to convey his thanks, through the Chairman, to Dr. Orr for his excellent paper. Many members, situated as he was himself, got little opportunity for research; and yet in certain aspects of their work they could see the great necessity for it. He sympathised with Dr. Orr in his statement that in many matters which came under the purview of the alienist he was sadly at a loss; because when questioned by the layman as to what was the reason for such and such a condition, he could not say, and the inquirer said his theory was as good as one's own. At present it was not a matter of hypothesis based on pathological investigation, and there was the feeling that it would be a long time before anything could be done. At a time like this one felt despair, because with all the enthusiasm one must have money to carry out this work. As Huxley remarked, "Man cannot live by praise alone; he must have the wherewithal to live." This ghastly war was interfering with many schemes which otherwise would have been helped. At the same time, it was a pleasure to hear such a thoughtful paper, which had taken so much thought. And when the due time arrived, and it was placed before the authorities, it would be a great help in deciding on what lines research should be conducted. He repeated his thanks for the paper.

Dr. HARVEY BAIRD desired to add his thanks for the admirable paper. As Dr. Norman had just said, money was the essential. He was for four years senior assistant at Cardiff Mental Hospital, where there was an excellent laboratory. And the excellence of it was, in the main, due to the superintendent, who had impressed the Borough Committee with the necessity of that work. If every medical superintendent tried to equally impress his own particular committee, there would be much better provision in this respect throughout the country. Already research had told them a great deal; for instance, that syphilis was an important cause of nervous disease. But how often were the public told and warned about this? If arrangements could be made whereby the medical officers of asylums could give public lectures, or even, perhaps, wrote letters to the lay press, greater interest would be shown in the subject, and consequently more would be done for the community in general.

Dr. ORR, in reply, said the matter would be thrashed out by the special Sub-Committee. He did not doubt that the money for the purpose would be forthcoming; but an adequate sum must be asked for; a small grant would be useless.

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Northern and Midland Division was held at the kind invitation of Dr. T. Johnstone, at the Swan Hydro, Harrogate, on Thursday, April 22nd, 1915.

Dr. Johnstone presided.

The following twelve members were present: Drs. T. S. Adair, L. D. H. Baugh, Graeme Dickson, S. Edgerley, J. W. Geddes, E. G. Grove, R. W. D. Hewson, C. L. Hopkins, T. Johnstone, H. W. Kershaw, H. J. Mackenzie, S. R. Macphail; and two visitors: Dr. D. Brown and Mrs. Baugh, M.B.

A number of apologies were received from members unable to attend.

(1) The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

(2) Dr. T. Stewart Adair was re-elected Secretary to the Division.

(3) Drs. A. R. Douglas, J. R. Gilmour, and D. Hunter were elected Representative Members of Council for the next twelve months.

(4) The kind invitations of Dr. T. W. McDowall to hold the Autumn Meeting, 1915, at Morpeth on October 7th, and of Dr. Hamilton Grills to hold the Spring Meeting, 1916, at the County Asylum, Chester, on April 27th, 1916, were cordially accepted.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.61.254.474 Published online by Cambridge University Press

(5) Dr. Johnstone contributed an interesting paper on "Some Mental Cases in Private Practice." He first gave a sketch of the genesis and development of hydropathic establishments, and showed how the medical and surgical nursing-homes had sprung up and diverted the practice from them. He then gave illustrations of early cases of insanity occurring in the Bible, and pointed out how many of the occurrences narrated in that book could only be rationally explained in that way. He concluded with a record of some curious cases he had met with in general practice.

An interesting discussion followed, to which Dr. Johnstone replied.

(6) Dr. H. J. Mackenzie read Dr. MacPhail's paper on "Pachymeningitis Interna Hæmorrhagica as a cause of Death"—Dr. MacPhail unfortunately being unable to be present. He described the history of a case of acute melancholia in which this was the "prominent lesion," and the "only ascertainable cause of death" supervening on a train of definite clinical symptoms. (This paper appears at p. 443 of present issue).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Johnstone at the close of the meeting for his kind hospitality, and also to himself and Dr. David Brown for a very interesting tour of the Royal Baths, Harrogate, earlier in the day. Dr. Brown made the inspection of the Baths particularly entertaining by his lucid explanations of their characters and uses.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

THE Spring Meeting of the South-Eastern Division was held, by the courtesy of Dr. Sergeant, at Newlands House, on Thursday, April 29th, 1915.

Among those present were: Sir George Savage, and Drs. D. Bower, J. Chambers, A. C. Dove, J. H. Earls, F. H. Edwards, H. E. Haynes, W. D. Higson, G. H. Johnston, G. E. Miles, C. McDowall, H. J. Norman, N. Oliver, E. F. Sall, G. E. Shuttleworth, J. Stewart, F. Watson, S. A. K. Wilson, J. C. Woods, and J. N. Sergeant (Hon. Divisional Secretary).

Expressions of regret at inability to be present were received from several members.

The Meeting of the Divisional Committee was held at 1 o'clock.

At half-past one the members were entertained to luncheon, after which they inspected parts of the house.

The General Meeting was held at 3.30 p.m., Dr. Bower in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting, having been printed in the Journal, were taken as read and confirmed.

Drs. Edwyn H. Beresford, Hubert J. Norman, T. E. K. Stansfield, Robert H. Steen, and T. Seymour Tuke were elected Representative Members of the Council, and Dr. J. Noel Sergeant Honorary Divisional Secretary for the year 1915–1916. Drs. Hubert J. Norman, W. Rawes, and Robert H. Steen were elected members of the Divisional Committee of Management.

In view of the unsettled state of affairs generally and of many asylums particularly it was decided to arrange provisionally for the Autumn Meeting to be held at 11, Chandos Street, on October 6th, but to instruct the Secretary to arrange for the meeting elsewhere should a suitable invitation be received. It was further decided to postpone the fixing of the place and date of the Spring Meeting.

Dr. SERGEANT then outlined some points of interest in a few recent cases, calling attention to the apparent influence of the war as an exciting cause in a large proportion of these cases, and enlarging on two cases of general paralysis, the one from the medical and therapeutic point of view and the other from the medico-legal aspect.

Dr. BOWER, as chairman, called for discussion, and Sir GEORGE SAVAGE, Major MILES, Dr. HIGSON, Dr. DOVE, Dr. EDWARDS, and Dr. STEWART spoke on various points that had been raised.

Sir GEORGE SAVAGE moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Sergeant, which was carried by acclamation.

At the conclusion of the Meeting the members were entertained to tea.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.61.254.474 Published online by Cambridge University Press